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REPORT OF THE SECRETARY OF THE AMERICAN ECONOMIC
ASSOCIATION FOR THE YEAR ENDING
DECEMBER 20, 1920

The present Secretary of the Association assumed the duties of the office four months ago. Previous to that time one meeting of the Executive Committee had been held, the following report of which was sent by Professor Allyn A. Young.

The first meeting of the Executive Committee for the year 1920 was held in Room 425, Northwestern University Building, Chicago, on Saturday, May 8, at 2 P. M. There were present Messrs. Deibler, Dewey, Ely, Field, Robinson, Lutz, and Young.

In the absence of President Davenport, Vice-President Field presided.

It was voted to ratify the informal ballots already taken by mail by which Professor David Friday was selected to represent the Association on the directorate of the National Bureau of Economic Research, Inc., and Professors H. B. Gardner and A. A. Young were chosen as the Association's delegates, for the year 1920, to the American Council of Learned Societies.

The Secretary presented a letter from Dr. H. J. Harris, of the Library of Congress, calling attention to the desirability of the publication by the federal government of a bulletin in which the official rulings and orders of the different branches of the government should be printed. Discussion developed the opinion that the matter, however important, was not one in which the American Economic Association could properly take the initiative. By vote, however, the President was authorized to appoint, if it should seem desirable, one member to represent the Association on any committee including representatives of other societies, which might be constituted to deal with the matter.

Various problems relating to the Secretaryship of the Association were discussed. An opinion shared by several members of the Committee was that the Association must eventually establish permanent headquarters and employ a Secretary who would give his full time to the work of the Association. It was also suggested that at some future time the offices of the Secretary and of the Managing Editor of the AMERICAN ECONOMIC REVIEW might advantageously be joined.

The resignation of the present Secretary, which had been tendered to the Committee prior to the Annual Meeting in December, 1919, was accepted, and Professor Ray B. Westerfield was elected Secretary and Treasurer. This change, it was provided, should take effect at the mutual convenience of the retiring Secretary and the Secretary-elect.

It was voted that the next Annual Meeting be held on December 28 to 31, inclusive, of the current year, with the proviso that the first session might be held, if found convenient, on Monday evening, December 27. With respect to the place of meeting the Committee had no decided preference as between Washington and Atlantic City. The decision should hinge, it was felt, upon the nature of the program and the adequacy of the hotel accommodations available. The matter was therefore left in the hands of a special committee, consisting of Vice-President Field, the Chairman of the Program Committee, and the Secretary.

By vote of the Committee the Secretary was authorized to dispose of the

Association's surplus stock of past Publications at such prices as can be secured.

There being no other business, the Committee adjourned at 4.30 P. M.

ALLYN A. YOUNG, *Secretary*.

Pursuant to the above vote accepting the resignation of Professor Allyn A. Young and electing a new Secretary and Treasurer, the office effects were transferred the second week of August to New Haven, Connecticut, where Yale University has provided quarters free of rent and other charges. The new Secretary takes this occasion to thank Professors Young, Dewey, Field, Seligman and others for their kindly help and advice in making the transfer and getting started.

Early in September the Internal Revenue Bureau requested our Association to send representatives to a conference at Washington for the purpose of permitting the officials of the Bureau to receive suggestions and recommendations as to changes in the forms and schedules for the tax year 1920. The Secretary suggested the names of certain members who are tax experts and who were in Washington or its vicinity at that time. Of those suggested, Professor A. M. Sakolski attended the conference and his report is published in the December issue of the *AMERICAN ECONOMIC REVIEW*, pp. 885-7.

The second meeting of the Executive Committee for the year was held at 5:30, December 27, in Haddon Hall, Atlantic City. Those present were Professors Davenport, Deibler, Dewey, Ely, Field, Fisher, Gardner, Taylor, Willcox, and Westerfield.

The minutes of the last meeting of the Committee were read and approved.

The Secretary presented the question whether the American Economic Association should join the Personnel Research Federation. It was voted to postpone action until the next meeting of the Committee and to ask Professor Barnett to meet with the Committee and explain the place, purposes, and organization of the Federation.

Through the Germanistic Society of America certain German universities have applied to the American Economic Association to supply them, free of charge, the numbers of the *AMERICAN ECONOMIC REVIEW* which they did not receive during the war. After consideration the Committee voted that the Association is not in a position to grant the request at this time.

The World Metric Standardization Committee has informed the American Economic Association that a bill is before Congress providing for the gradual adoption of metric units of weights and measures as the exclusive American standards after a transition period of ten years, and asked the Association to aid the cause by appointing a special metric committee and passing favorable resolutions. It was voted by the Executive Committee that the Association take no action in the matter.

The American Economic Association is a member of the American Council of Learned Societies and is represented by two delegates. At the May meeting the Executive Committee appointed Professors A. A. Young and H. B. Gardner to represent the Association for the year 1920. The constitution and by-laws of the Association make no provision for the method of electing such representatives. It was voted by the Executive Committee that these representatives should be nominated by the regular Nominations Committee and elected in the same manner as the officers.

The following table indicates the changes in the membership of the Association during the year:

Members and subscribers in December, 1919	2714
Annual members in December, 1919	2125
Members resigned in 1920	102
Removed for lack of address	19
Members dropped for non-payment of dues	37
Annual members died	23
	<hr/>
	181
	<hr/>
	1944
New members in 1920	269
	<hr/>
Total annual members in 1920	2213
Life members in December, 1919	86
Deaths of life members reported in 1920.....	2
	<hr/>
	84
Honorary members in December 1919	5
Deaths of honorary members reported in 1920	1
	<hr/>
	4
	<hr/>
Total members in December, 1920	2301
Subscribers in December, 1919	498
Subscribers discontinued in 1920	55
	<hr/>
	443
New subscribers in 1920	122
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	565
	<hr/>
Total members and subscribers in December, 1920	2866
Net gain in members and subscribers in 1920	152

It is a painful duty to report the decease of the following members during the year:

AVERY, SAMUEL P.
 BEER, GEORGE L.
 BODIO, LUIGI (*Honorary Member*)
 BRECHER, G. A.
 BULLARD, ALBERT W.
 DODDS, ALEXANDER
 EMERICK, C. F. (*Life Member*)
 ESTABROOK, ARTHUR F.
 JAYNE, HENRY LAB. (*Life Member*)
 JONES, FRED G.
 JUDSON, FREDERICK N.
 LOEWY, BENNO
 MACCLEAN, E. A.

MOHR, LOUIS
 SANDERS, FREDERIC W.
 SCHIFF, JACOB H.
 SCHMIDLAPP, JACOB G.
 SCHREITER, HENRY
 SHEFFIELD, WILLIAM P.
 SILLMAN, JOSEPH
 STETSON, FRANCIS L.
 STEVENS, RICHARD
 STONE, I. FRANK
 THOMPSON, CARL W.
 VAIL, THEODORE N.
 WILSON, HUGH M.

In closing his report, the new Secretary wishes to thank all those persons who have coöperated in the conduct of his office and in the preparation and direction of the present Annual Meeting.

Respectfully submitted.

RAY B. WESTERFIELD, *Secretary*.